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QUADRENNIAL REPORTS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, CATEGORIES I AND II

Quadrennial reports, 1990-1993

Reports submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 3 May 1968

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Note

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) on arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations, organizations in consultative status in categories I and II shall submit to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, through the Secretary-General, every fourth year a brief report of their activities, specifically as regards the support they have given to the work of the United Nations. Based on findings of the Committee's examination of the report and other relevant information, the Committee may recommend to the Council any reclassification in status of the organization concerned as it deems appropriate.

At its 1981 session, the Committee decided that quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations should be limited to no more than two single-spaced pages. At its 1989 session, the Committee stressed the need for non-governmental organizations required to submit quadrennial reports to provide the Secretariat with clear and timely information, including, inter alia, a brief introductory statement recalling the aims and purposes of the organization.

At its 1991 session, the Committee emphasized the need for non-governmental organizations requested to submit quadrennial reports to provide a clear picture of their activities as they related to the United Nations. The Committee further noted that the reports should conform to the guidelines elaborated by the Non-Governmental Organizations Section pursuant to the relevant decisions of the Committee (see E/1991/20, para. 47). The Committee decided that only those reports elaborated in conformity with the guidelines and submitted to the Non-Governmental Organizations Section no later than 1 June of the year preceding the Committee's session would be transmitted to the Committee for consideration. The Committee recalled that organizations failing to submit adequate reports on time would be subject to reclassification in status that the Committee might deem appropriate, in conformity with paragraph 40 (b) of Council resolu _on 1296 (XLIV) (see E/1991/20, para. 48). Pursuant to these decisions, the Secretariat, in December 1993, communicated to all relevant organizations guidelines for the completion of quadrennial reports.

The material issued in the present series of documents (E/C.2/1995/2 and addenda) has been reproduced as submitted and therefore reflects the policies and terminology of the organizations concerned. The designations employed do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations Secretariat concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Supplementary material, such as annual reports and samples of publications, is available in the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat.

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1. COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

(Category II)

Based on the plan of action approved at the Twenty-Fourth General Conference of the Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS), in December 1989, activities were undertaken as described below.

Information

Three issues of CCIVS News were published in 1990 in English and French, on the following themes:

(a) Fortieth anniversary of CCIVS;

(b) Youth exchange: the challenge of the time;

(c) North-South: the role of CCIVS/Give the circuit life.

Three issues of CCIVS News were published in 1991, on the following themes:

(a) CCIVS: Boarding the "East-West Express";

(b) Stop catastrophes;

(c) Volunteers in the World Decade for Cultural Heritage.

A directory of CCIVS member organizations was published and kept up-to-date for interested volunteers who wanted to be involved in the international work camps. A guide for drafting projects was also published by the secretariat; the guide was designed to help member organizations apply for grants.

Coordination

Several Executive Committee meetings were held (Marly le Roi, France, May 1990; Kpalimé, Togo, November 1990; Berlin, May 1991; and Paris, October 1991).

Seminars were also organized on East-West cooperation and exchange (Wendisch Rietz, Germany, 1991), and on voluntary service (Rosenstock-Huessey House, the Netherlands, 1990).

Projects of member CCIVS organizations

CCIVS supported a number of different projects mounted by member organizations, as described below.

Literacy

Mobilized by ILY, many Asian member organizations carried out projects dealing with literacy, especially among young women and in rural areas. A good example was the Kallupatty Women's Poultry farm, which was organized by ISSE of India. A project for the construction of school desks in rural areas on the Bolivian High Plateau was realized by VEA of Bolivia.

Cultural heritage

The Kairouan project involved establishing a cultural centre for youth associations and was realized by ATAV of Tunisia. The Samarkand Archaeological Camp was organized by USB of Russia.

Environmental protection

The establishment of a farm project and training centre for environmental education was organized by VOLU of Ghana.

Disaster preparedness

An international seminar on disaster preparedness was held in Paris in 1991, in cooperation with UNESCO, by JAC of India, SVG Caserta of Italy and the All Union Students Brigade of the Russian Federation.

Youth exchange

In preparation for the Collective Consultation of Youth NGOs, which took place in Romania, CCIVS helped to bring Romanian youth organizations into contact with work camp organizations during 1991.

North-South Exchange

Despite existing problems, such as the lack of an accepted international status for international volunteers and visa problems, CCIVS member organizations continued the North-South Exchange of volunteers. An important and valuable basis for the exchange was created by the North-South Seminar, which was held at the end of 1989 in the Netherlands.

CCIVS secretariat matters

At the Executive Committee meeting held in Togo in 1990, it was decided that a serious evaluation of CCIVS should be undertaken. During the period 1990-1991, the evaluation group started by circulating questionnaires to collect the opinions of the member organizations. The final evaluation document was submitted to the Twenty-Fifth General Conference of CCIVS in 1992.

Activities in 1992-1993

Changing with the times

CCIVS works for its members - over 120 very different organizations scattered throughout the world - providing them with information, passing on ideas and cooperating with them on joint initiatives, linking them indirectly with the United Nations system. CCIVS cooperates closely with UNESCO and helps UNESCO promote voluntary service. Recession, political change in the East, structural adjustment, the policies and needs of Governments: all these deeply affect the work of voluntary service organizations. The attitudes and interests of young people also change, but thousands still come forward every year with the aim of working together with their fellow men and women.

In order to make CCIVS more relevant to the times and to its members, an evaluation study was undertaken in 1992, which has led to useful reflection on the structures and working methods of the organization, and this process continued at a seminar held in Thiezac, France in June 1993, at which the modernization of voluntary service was discussed in very practical terms.

Members

CCIVS welcomed new members from Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Burkina Faso, the Congo, France, India, Lithuania, Morocco, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zaire. A number of associate members were promoted to full members.

Twenty-Fifth Conference of Voluntary Organizations

Participants from 28 member organizations met in Moscow in January 1993 at the invitation of the Youth Voluntary Service of the Russian Federation for the biennial conference, the main theme of which was "The new world order: can voluntary service rise to the challenge?". Discussion groups focused on the social problems of young people; rural development and environment; and racism and xenophobia.

Publications and information

New publications in the series Volunteering in the '90s have appeared:

(a) Two small volumes, listing voluntary organizations in Europe and North America, and Africa and Asia;

(b) Running A Work Camp (replacing the Campleader's Handbook);

(c) Guide de Présentation de Projets, available only in French to date.

In addition, a detailed Africa Directory was produced in 1992, giving detailed descriptions of most of the voluntary organizations in sub-Saharan Africa.

The newsletter CCIVS News is published in English and French three times per year. An information service is provided at the CCIVS secretariat and thousands of requests for information are attended to each year.

Projects and programmes

CCIVS always works on projects in collaboration with its members. In 1992-1993, it has been closely involved in the following:

(a) Joint Technical Meeting: CCIVS helped with the first ever joint meeting of nearly all the work camp organizations in Europe in March 1993;

(b) Southern Africa: a training work camp and seminar was organized in Lesotho, in collaboration with the Lesotho Workcamps Association and Service Civil International (SCI) in March 1993. Volunteers from South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Swaziland, as well as Lesotho, built part of a school and a community centre, worked on a village water scheme and planted trees. A second programme took place in Namibia in September 1993, at which Botswana, Angola and Mozambique were also involved. As a result of these projects, new voluntary associations have sprung up in Namibia and Zimbabwe;

(c) Bolivia: CCIVS enabled the UNESCO Co-Action Programme to fund a project to construct desks for rural primary schools, organized by Volontarios en Acción of Bolivia;

(d) Germany: a seminar to plan ways in which voluntary service could reduce tobacco abuse was held in collaboration with VJF. It produced a supplement to CCIVS News and proposed follow-up activities, including a competition;

(e) South-South exchange: with support from UNESCO, volunteers from the United Republic of Tanzania and Botswana visited India and took part in a programme of activities with SCI;

(f) Former Yugoslavia: several member organizations have been actively engaged in work with refugees, including Christian Movement for Peace (CMP International), SCI, MS of Denmark and ACAAEJ of Algeria.

International Volunteer Day

This is celebrated each year on 5 December and CCIVS and UNESCO both took a more prominent part in 1993. An exhibition was assembled at the UNESCO headquarters and the Director-General shared a platform with the Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Volunteers at a gathering in Paris. This marked a further step to closer collaboration with the United Nations Volunteers.

CCIVS was able to offer small grants for members' activities to mark this day:

(a) India: help with production of a video and publicity for the Indian Institute for Youth and Development, and of an exhibition on disaster reduction by the Joint Assistance Centre;

(b) Togo: programme of meetings and activities in the town of Kpalimé, organized by ASTOVOCT and the Foyer des Jeunes;

(c) Congo: publicity for a work camp in a rural area;

(d) Ghana: voluntary work and a public meeting in Accra.

Finance and fund-raising

CCIVS is hampered in its work by a lack of financial resources, but some progress has been made over the past two years. CCIVS is grateful to UNESCO for its continuing support, in the form of a small regular contract plus special contracts. The latter have included work relating to International Volunteer Day and major contributions to the projects in Lesotho and Namibia, CCIVS publications, South-South exchanges and the seminar at Thiezac. CCIVS is also very grateful to the Fonds National pour le Développement de la Vie Associative (France) and to DANIDA (Denmark) for supporting the evaluation; to the Polden-Puckham Foundation for help with the Lesotho project; to the United Nations Youth Fund, OXFAM and the Noel Buxton Trust for the Namibia Project; and the Commission of the European Communities; and the British "Knowhow Fund" for supporting the Moscow Conference.

2. INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF SHIPPING

(Category II)

The International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) was established in 1921. ICS is the shipping industry's principal international organization; its members comprise national shipowners' associations or individual shipping companies that together represent more than half of the world's merchant fleet.

One of the principal roles of ICS has always been to represent the interests of the shipping industry in intergovernmental discussions and much of its current activity is directly related to the work of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). ICS was the first non-governmental organization to be granted consultative status with IMO and remains one of the most active participants in IMO discussions: ICS attends virtually every IMO meeting, is fully represented on a range of working and correspondence groups, and submits many papers to the meetings of IMO committees and subcommittees.

Specific issues that ICS has addressed in the context of IMO discussions during the period under review include:

(a) Passenger ship safety: the consequences for ferry design and operation of the capsize of the Herald of Free Enterprise in 1987 and the fire on board the Scandinavian Star in 1990;

(b) Oil tanker design: the international debate following the grounding of the Exxon Valdez in Alaska;

(c) Liability for hazardous and noxious substances: the debate on the development of an international regime to cover liability for damage due to pollution and other causes following a maritime incident involving chemicals or other hazardous cargo;

(d) Atmospheric pollution: the development of regulations on pollution of the atmosphere caused by ships, particularly in the context of the Montreal Protocol of 1987;

(e) Safety of navigation: agreement on new and improved routing schemes, navigational aids and other measures for enhancing marine safety;

(f) Maritime radiocommunications: the conclusion of a major new communications regime for shipping: the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System.

To support such activity, ICS maintains a series of committees and subcommittees that meet on a regular basis. The Committees are:

(a) The Marine Committee;

(b) The Maritime Law Committee;

(c) The Insurance Committee;

(d) The Trade Procedures Committee.

The subcommittees cover the following areas: chemical carriers; gas carriers; oil tankers; passenger ships; construction and equipment; containers; dangerous goods; radios; and nautical and electronic data interchange.

ICS has also regularly consulted with and attended relevant meetings of a number of other intergovernmental organizations both within and outside the United Nations with which it enjoys observer status, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), on a number of matters related to shipping; the World Customs Organization (previously the Customs Cooperation Council), notably on the prevention of drug smuggling; the International Telecommunication Union (ITU); the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), principally on matters pertaining to combined transport; and the International Maritime Satellite Organization (INMARSAT). ICS was also involved in some of the preparatory work for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and subsequently published an Environment Code that has been widely distributed through the maritime world as a contribution to the concept of sustainable development and to the protection of the environment.

Finally, it should be noted that ICS has continued to issue a range of publications on maritime matters, most of them concerned with ship safety and pollution prevention, including the acknowledged guidance manuals on oil, chemical and gas tanker safety and on safety management in shipping companies. Other subjects covered include the avoidance of drug smuggling by ship.

ICS has witnessed a gradual increase in its membership as more countries have become involved in international shipping. Its programme of activity of the previous quadrennium is expected to remain essentially the same for the next quadrennium.

3. INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS

(Category I)

Aims and purposes of ICFTU

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) exists to unite the workers organized in the free and democratic trade unions of the world and to afford a means of consultation and collaboration among them in furtherance of the following aims (see ICFTU constitution for details):

(a) Promote the interests of working people;

(b) Work for constantly rising living standards, full employment and social security;

(c) Reduce the gap between rich and poor, both within and among nations;

(d) Work for international understanding, disarmament and the establishment of peace;

(e) Help workers everywhere to organize themselves and secure recognition of their organizations as free bargaining agents;

(f) Fight against oppression and dictatorship everywhere and against discrimination of any kind on the grounds of race, colour, creed or sex;

(g) Defend fundamental human and trade union rights.

These aims are summed up in the ICFTU motto "Bread, Peace and Freedom".

Membership

On 3 December 1993, ICFTU had 120,407,529 members in 174 affiliated organizations located in 124 countries and territories.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

During the period under review, ICFTU has continued to regularly attend Council sessions. Several statements were delivered by ICFTU representatives at each of the Council sessions in New York and Geneva. A written statement on the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) was circulated at the first substantive session of 1992 of the Council. At the High-Level Segment of the first substantive session of 1993 of the Council, ICFTU submitted a written statement on the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995). At the annual sessions of the Commission on Human Rights, ICFTU representatives made five to seven statements each year. ICFTU representatives supported resolutions on trade union rights adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-fifth session, in 1990 and at its fiftieth session, in 1994. Information was frequently updated by ICFTU at Council sessions. ICFTU also participated regularly in the meetings of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

Where possible, ICFTU contributed to the implementation of resolutions emanating from those bodies and supplied information upon request. ICFTU has continued to participate actively in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission for Social Development and the Population Commission, and is actively engaged in the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development. ICFTU representatives have regularly attended the meetings of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. ICFTU regional organizations have followed the sessions of ECA, ECLAC and ESCAP. The work of ECE is also being observed by ICFTU.

Non-Council bodies

ICFTU has continued to attend the sessions of the General Assembly, particularly the meetings of the Second and Third Committees. ICFTU representatives have also attended meetings of the various bodies set up under human rights treaties.

United Nations bodies and agencies

As in the past, relations with ILO have received ICFTU's priority attention. Active relations have been maintained with UNESCO, FAO, UNIDO, IAEA, IMO, WIPO and UNEP. Consultations have been held with UNCTAD and UNDP, as well as with IMF and the World Bank.

United Nations conferences and special observances

ICFTU and its affiliates participated actively in the preparations for the following United Nations events (they were represented by delegations and submitted statements at the events themselves): the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the World Conference on Human Rights.

ICFTU has also participated in the preparations for the International Year of the Family (1994) and was designated IYF Patron for its support. Furthermore, ICFTU has been involved in the preparations for the holding of the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women (both scheduled to take place in 1995).

ICFTU activities and policies related to the work of the United Nations

During the period under review, these have been manifold. For example, in the area of child labour, ICFTU has welcomed the Convention on the Rights of the Child as a valuable instrument. Regarding migrant workers, ICFTU has continued to work for the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families. ICFTU has been supporting the aims of the Fourth Development Decade and of the Agenda for Peace through its own activities in promoting, for example, a social dimension in structural adjustment and economic transition processes, and the creation of safe and freely chosen employment. The Fifteenth ICFTU World Congress (Caracas, March 1992) adopted resolutions on, inter alia, the following subjects:

(a) The role of ICFTU in building a democratic world order;

(b) Environment and development;

(c) Equality and women and development;

(d) Child labour;

(e) Priorities in the 1990s: democratic and sustainable development, full employment and an end to poverty;

(f) Peace, security and disarmament;

(g) The United Nations;

(h) Human and trade union rights: foundations of democracy in South Africa and the Middle East.

Dissemination of information

ICFTU has published articles relating to the United Nations in its monthly publication Free Labour World and news items in its weekly Telex News. ICFTU has also continued the publication of its annual Survey of Violations of Trade Union Rights. Except for Telex News, which is published in English only, all publications appear in English, French, German and Spanish; in addition, ICFTU affiliates publish the Survey of Violations of Trade Union Rights in Dutch, Japanese and Swedish.

ICFTU representation at the United Nations

ICFTU has permanent representatives to the United Nations in New York and Geneva, and resident representatives in Vienna, Rome and Nairobi.

4. INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

(Category I)

The International Council of Women (ICW) was founded in 1888 in Washington, D.C. Its constitution and Standing Orders were drawn up in 1888 in Washington, D.C. and were revised in 1936 in Dubrovnik, former Yugoslavia; in 1954 in Helsinki; and in 1973 in Vienna. The ICW European Council is referred to as ECICW, the American Regional Council as ARC. ICW obtained the status of Utilité publique in France in 1980.

ICW aims to:

(a) Bring together in association women's voluntary organizations from all parts of the world in consultation and action to promote the welfare of the family and the individual;

(b) Support all efforts to achieve peace through negotiation, arbitration and conciliation;

(c) Promote recognition and respect for human rights and work for the removal of discrimination, such as that based on birth, race, sex, language or religion;

(d) Promote equal rights and responsibilities for both sexes in all spheres;

(e) Encourage women to recognize their responsibilities and train and stimulate them to participate in public life.

ICW has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, UNESCO, ILO, WHO, FAO, UNCTAD, and UNIDO. It also enjoys relationships with UNDP, UNEP and UNICEF.

ICW maintains permanent representatives to the regional commissions and is also associated with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat. The European Centre of ICW has consultative status with the Council of Europe.

ICW maintains relations with the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relations - with UNESCO (categories A and B), the International Planned Parenthood Federation, and the NGO Committees on Disarmament, Ageing, Sustainable Development, Shelter and Community and the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on UNICEF.

ICW has set up Project Five-O to train women and girls with four international women's organizations: the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (IFBPW), the International Federation of University Women (IFUW), Soroptimist International (SI) and Zonta International.

Activities

ICW participated in the following:

(a) Preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development, including a UNFPA/NGO seminar (Geneva, 22 March 1993), the Second European Population Conference (Geneva, 23-26 March 1993) and a UNFPA European NGOs Consultation (Geneva, 7-9 October 1993);

(b) Preparations for the International Year of the Family, including all preparatory meetings of the NGO Committee on the Family (Vienna), a UNESCO conference on the theme "The future of the family", an ICW conference on the theme "Changing families in changing societies" (Brussels, 9-10 February 1992), an ECE preparatory conference (Malta, 26-30 April 1993), a European universal conference on the theme "Fathers in the families of tomorrow" (Copenhagen, 17-18 June 1993), and the World NGO Forum on the Family (Malta, 11 November-12 December 1993);

(c) Preparations for the World Summit for Social Development, including all meetings of the Commission on Social Development (Vienna);

(d) Preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, including all meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women (Vienna and New York), and all IWRAW meetings (Vienna and New York);

(e) Preparations for the World Conference on Human Rights, including the International Conference on Sex Business and Human Rights (Brussels, 4 March 1993) and the meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights (Geneva, 13-30 April 1993);

(f) World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 14-25 June 1993).

ICW also held two seminars, on the themes "Women, economy and social policy" (Brussels, 25-27 September 1993) and "The force and activities of Mediterranean women" (Mercin, Turkey, 1-6 October 1993).

ICW also participated in the following meetings and activities:

(a) International Labour Conferences (Geneva, 1990-1993);

(b) Preparatory committees for the World Conference on Human Rights (Geneva, 1990-1993);

(c) Preparatory committees for the Fourth World Conference on Women (Geneva, 1993 and 1994);

(d) Preparatory committees for the ECE Regional Conference (Vienna, 1991 and Geneva, 1993 and 1994);

(e) Preparations for the International Conference on Population (Geneva, 1993 and 1994);

(f) CONGO: all sessions (Geneva, 1990-1994);

(g) Commission on the Status of Women and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Vienna, 1991-1993);

(h) International Conference on Nutrition (Rome, 1993);

(i) Launching of the International Year of the Family (Malta, 1993);

(j) Sixth session of States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (New York, 4 February 1992);

(k) Organizational session, resumed organizational session and substantive session of 1992 of the Fourth session of the Economic and Social Council (New York, 4-7 February, 29 and 30 April, and 29 June-31 July 1992);

(l) Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (New York, 2 March-3 April 1992);

(m) Forty-fourth session of the Human Rights Committee (New York, 23 March-10 April 1992) and meeting of its Working Group on Communications (New York, 16-20 March 1992);

(n) Organizational session of the UNICEF Executive Board (New York, 24 and 25 March 1992);

(o) Thirty-first session of the Consultative Committee on UNIFEM (New York, 13-16 April 1992);

(p) United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992);

(q) Thirty-second session of the Consultative Committee on UNIFEM (New York, August-September 1992);

(r) United Nations/NGO conference on the theme "Regional conflicts: threats to world peace and progress" (New York, 9-11 September 1992);

(s) Forty-seventh session of the General Assembly;

(t) Organizational session of the Economic and Social Council (2-5 February 1993), meeting of the NGO Committee (New York, 3 March-22 April 1992) and meeting of the Human Rights Committee (New York, 22 March-4 April 1992);

(u) Second session of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development (New York, 10-21 May 1993);

(v) United Nations/NGO conference on the theme "Social development: a new definition for security" (New York, 8-10 November 1993);

(w) Forty-eighth session of the General Assembly;

(x) NGO Committee on the Status of Women: parallel meeting to a meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women (New York, 11-14 January 1994), and meeting of CEDAW (New York, 17 January-4 February 1994);

(y) First session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development (New York, 31 January-11 February 1994);

(z) Inter-sessional working group meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, 22 January-4 April 1994);

(aa) Meeting of the NGO/ECE Working Group of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women (New York, 2-18 March 1994), and meeting of the Planning Committee for the NGO Forum 1995 (New York, 5 March 1994);

(bb) Twenty-seventh session of the Population Commission (New York, 28-31 March 1994);

(cc) Third session of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development (New York, 4-22 April 1994).

Collaborative action between ICW regional and permanent representatives and the regional commissions is a top ICW priority.

ICW's broad coverage of all Economic and Social Council activity is funnelled to 73 national councils across the globe as guidance for programme action and policy. The previous quadrennium has been one of rethinking, restructuring and reactivating classic ICW approaches in order to welcome and assimilate dynamic and grass-roots forces, new technologies and new action-oriented programmes for all women in the furthest corners of the globe on the theme "Hang the boldest of the new on the strongest of the old".

ICW, fortified with more than 100 years of achievement and service in the furtherance of women's empowerment, moves on with renewed vitality, through people's networks, to pursue broad social objectives and plans of action for the advancement of women and humankind.

5. NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER LEGAL SERVICES SECRETARIAT

(Category II)

Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody

The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody was established in August 1987, with hearings commencing in January 1988.

The National Aboriginal and Islander Legal Services Secretariat (NAILSS) was given leave to appear before the Royal Commission in the capacity of overview. It also had the responsibility of coordinating payments to members of NAILSS for the representation of individual families before the Commission.

Commission hearings were finalized in December 1990 and all submissions were completed to the Commission by 31 December 1990. The Commission itself was completed on 31 March 1991 and its report tabled before the Commonwealth Parliament in May 1991.

The report contained 339 recommendations covering a wide variety of areas affecting the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

As part of the submissions prepared and submitted to the Commission by NAILSS, there were reports on individual deaths, a prison survey carried out in Western Australia, detailed submissions concerning Aboriginal communities in North Queensland and New South Wales, overview reports in respect of each of the States, a national overview report, and a number of other commissioned papers.

Following the release of the national report in May 1991, NAILSS has continued to monitor the progress (or rather lack of progress) of implementation of the recommendations.

NAILSS has expressed its disappointment with the ineffectiveness of the Royal Commission, in particular with the failure of the Commission to result in the prosecution of people NAILSS believes were responsible for the deaths of Aboriginal people in police or prison custody, and with the general failure of the Royal Commission to address the question of land rights, concentrating instead on the issue of land needs.

Attendance at working groups for the rights of indigenous peoples

NAILSS has continued to attend working groups for the rights of indigenous peoples every year since 1982 and has taken an active role in the promotion and declaration of the rights of indigenous peoples and the debate surrounding the terms of the Declaration.

Attendance at the Subcommission on Protection of Minorities and Prevention of Discrimination

NAILSS has attended each of the meetings of the Subcommission during the period under review. It has made a number of interventions on issues affecting indigenous peoples in Australia.

Attendance at other human rights conferences

In November 1990, the Chairman of NAILSS attended the Human Rights Conference convened in Japan by IWIGA, at the direct invitation of the convenors of that conference.

In September 1991, the Chairman of NAILSS attended a meeting of experts to review the experience of countries in the operation of schemes of internal self-government for indigenous peoples (Nuuk, Greenland). In December 1992, representatives of NAILSS attended the launching of the Year of Indigenous Peoples at United Nations Headquarters in New York. In April 1993, NAILSS attended the First Meeting of the World's Indigenous Peoples (Guatemala), as a result of an invitation issued to NAILSS by Ms. Rigoberta Menchu, United Nations Goodwill Ambassador.

In May 1993, a delegation from NAILSS attended the Regional Conference on Human Rights in Bangkok, a preparatory meeting for the World Conference on Human Rights.

Throughout the period of review, NAILSS has continued to advocate the development of human rights, in particular the rights of indigenous peoples. By attending conferences such as those outlined above, NAILSS has been able to broaden the debate on the rights of indigenous peoples and to incorporate the perspective of indigenous peoples into the wider debate on human rights.

Other domestic developments

Mabo

In June 1992, the High Court of Australia handed down a decision on Mabo v. The State of Queensland. This decision was important for the development of the rights of indigenous people in Australia, albeit a very limited development.

In essence, the High Court ruled that the doctrine of terra nullius did not apply in so far as the law of individual land ownership was concerned in Australia. That is, the High Court recognized that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people had a title termed Native Title to their land at the time of the European invasion in 1788. In addition, the High Court held that, where it can be shown that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a continuous occupation or connection with that land that is uninterrupted from 1788 to the present day, that title remains intact.

Although this case was of great benefit to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in remote areas of Australia who had not been seriously affected by the process of dispossession and colonialism, the decision did very little to advance the rights of the majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

First, the decision required that there must have been a continuous connection with the land and that the rights of the Native Title holder could be overruled or negated by any act of the Government adverse to that title affecting that land. Second, although the case ruled that terra nullius did not

apply as far as the law of land ownership in Australia was concerned, it did not seek to impeach the doctrine of the Act of State, whereby the colonial Powers in Australia claim their sovereignty as being based upon the acts claiming the land of Australia by representatives of the Crown in 1788, whether or not those acts were legal.

Subsequent to this decision, the Federal Government passed the Native Title Act to give effect to Mabo, to validate all grants of land to non-indigenous peoples since 1788 and to develop procedures for the establishment of Native Title claims. But the Act actually limited the legal rights already granted under Mabo, in so far as the rights to claim Native Title over land that had been leased by the Crown to other people and where Native Title might still coexist were eliminated.

Individual members of NAILSS were involved in the process of negotiation between the Government and minor parties in the Australian Senate (where the Government does not hold a majority) to try and improve and ameliorate the terms and conditions of the Native Title Act.

In addition, members of NAILSS have been involved in negotiating with the Federal Government over the development of the Social Justice Package and the Land Acquisition Fund, which are being established by the Government to compensate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for their loss of land, as established in Mabo.

Improving the criminal justice system

Individual members of NAILSS have been active in each of their States in seeking to improve conditions within the criminal justice system and fighting changes in the criminal justice system, particularly as they affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

For example, the Western Australian Aboriginal Legal Service has been active in fighting changes to the law in relation to children, whereby they may be kept in custody unless parents agree to seek bail conditions, as well as the amendments to the Western Australian Crimes Act, whereby people who have been charged with car-stealing more than three times may be given a life sentence.

In New South Wales, the Aboriginal Legal Service has been active in campaigning against State government proposals to abolish the rights to adopt statement, whereby an accused person can address the jury directly without being cross-examined by the Crown, and against changes to the law relating to the detention of suspects by police, where the police would be given much greater powers of detention for the purposes of questioning, whether or not the suspect is under arrest.

Increased funding following the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody

As a result of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, in March 1992 the Federal Government announced a substantial increase in the level of funding for Aboriginal services generally and Aboriginal legal services in

particular. In effect, the funding for Aboriginal legal services was increased by over 50 per cent.

As a result of this increase in funding, individual members of NAILSS have been able to develop units within their services to focus on issues of human rights and law reform development and to increase the level of services available for their clients generally.

For example, the Tharumptoo Legal Service in North Queensland, the Aboriginal Legal Service in New South Wales and the West Australian Aboriginal Legal Service have all developed human rights sections within their services to look at the broader question of human rights and to develop policies that seek to influence the debate on the development of human rights within Australia. In addition, services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in prisons and juvenile detention centres have been increased by various Aboriginal legal services and there has been a sustained effort on the part of all legal services to improve the level of services generally to their clients.

6. WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR PSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION

(Category II)

The World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation (WAPR) is an organization of professionals, consumers and their families concerned with the care, treatment and community rehabilitation of the mentally ill. WAPR has an international membership of 1,000 in 80 countries, divided into regional and national organizations. In pursuit of the organization's goals, WAPR provides direct consultation and training in community-based rehabilitation to local, national and international non-governmental and governmental bodies.

Since its application for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in 1989, WAPR has increased its international membership from 200 to 1,000 members and its geographic membership from 15 to 80 countries.

While WAPR financial resources have remained largely dependent on membership dues and conference proceeds, some additional funds have been provided by the Alexander Gralnick Foundation.

In 1990, WAPR affiliated with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat, the World Health Organization (WHO) and CONGO.

WAPR has been involved in numerous United Nations-related activities during 1990-1993, including:

(a) A WAPR representative submitted a statement urging the inclusion of educational rehabilitation opportunities for the mentally ill at the World Charter on Education for All (New York, 30-31 January 1990), which was sponsored by the NGO Committee on UNICEF. The statement was accepted and adopted at a conference held in Thailand on the theme "Education for all: making it happen";

(b) A WAPR liaison officer attended an orientation meeting held by the Department of Public Information (New York, Dag Hammarskjöld Library);

(c) Members of the WAPR Human Rights Committee collaborated with the Commission on Human Rights in drafting the Principles for the Protection of Persons with Mental Illness and for the Improvement of Mental Health Care (General Assembly resolution 46/119, annex). The WAPR President Emeritus attended the General Assembly meeting of 17 December 1991 at which the Principles were adopted;

(d) WAPR, in cooperation with WHO, presented regional psychosocial rehabilitation advanced training institutes in seven countries (Cameroon, China, Costa Rica, France, Pakistan, the Philippines and Zimbabwe);

(e) WAPR representatives attended the founding meeting of the Committee of Presidents of Non-Governmental Organizations Concerned with World Health Issues (5 January 1991) and were appointed President and Vice-President-Elect;

(f) At a joint meeting with the International Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services (7 January 1992), WAPR representatives agreed to

cooperate on an international advocacy effort for the rights and treatment needs of the mentally ill;

(g) A WAPR liaison officer and two international WAPR officers participated in a meeting of the Economic and Social Council (9 April 1992) and contributed oral statements on issues concerning the human rights of the mentally ill;

(h) WAPR officers met in Geneva with representatives of UNDP to establish plans and methods for cooperation;

(i) A WAPR liaison officer participated in a WHO meeting in Geneva (20 May 1992) and submitted a statement in support of General Assembly resolution 46/119;

(j) WAPR and WHO co-sponsored a conference on psychosocial rehabilitation (Shenyang, China, 5-8 August 1992);

(k) Members of the WAPR Human Rights Committee participated in a preparatory meeting for the World Conference on Human Rights (8 April 1993);

(l) WAPR representatives met with representatives of the World Federation on Mental Health (13 June 1993) and prepared a joint statement on the human rights of the mentally ill for presentation at the World Conference on Human Rights;

(m) Two representatives of WAPR attended the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 14-25 June 1993);

(n) The Chairperson of the WAPR Human Rights Committee, together with the Senior Medical Officer, WHO Division of Mental Health, the President of the World Schizophrenia Fellowship and the Chairperson of the New York State Commission on Quality of Care for the Mentally Disabled, presented a symposium on the advocacy and implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/119 at the Fourth WAPR World Congress (Dublin, September 1993);

(o) WAPR participated with Mental Disabilities Rights International and the Institute of Legal and Social Studies of Uruguay, a human rights organization in Uruguay, in visiting numerous mental health facilities (29 November-8 December 1993) and made recommendations for implementing General Assembly resolution 49/119.

7. WORLD LPG FORUM

(Category II)

Purpose and aims

The World LPG Forum exists to foster the growth of global use of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) through leadership of the LPG industry world wide. To successfully pursue this mission, the Forum will:

(a) Promote the use of LPG as a safe, clean and efficient fuel;

(b) Seek to influence decision makers in Governments world wide regarding major issues of the LPG industry;

(c) Promote the development of technology to continuously improve the safety and efficiency of LPG use;

(d) Represent all sectors of the LPG industry;

(e) Provide educational opportunities for Forum members through lectures and the distribution of printed materials;

(f) Provide strong international interchange among members by organizing conventions, trade shows and seminars;

(g) Keep members informed about all major events and new developments in the LPG industry.

Increase in number and geographical membership

At the beginning of 1990, the World LPG Forum comprised 53 members from 23 different countries; at the end of 1993, it comprised 125 members from 36 countries.

The annual LPG Convention organized by the Forum (Sydney, 1990; Rio de Janeiro, 1991; Marrakech, 1992; and Tokyo 1993) has experienced a steady increase in attendance (from 400 to 700).

There have been no changes in the sources of Forum funding: membership fees and profits (if any) of the conventions.

Participation in activities of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

The following were relevant activities of the World LPG Forum for 1990-1993:

(a) Joint organization with the Economic Commission for Europe, Energy Division, of a symposium on environment protection by the use of LPG and natural gas as an automotive fuel (Kiev, Ukraine, 23-27 September 1991);

(b) A rally from Rome to Kiev of 35 vehicles equipped with LPG or CNG, involving eight European countries, was organized prior to the opening of the above-mentioned symposium;

(c) Participation of the Forum President (as speaker) in the Prague Congress organized by the Economic Commission for Europe and the European LPG Association;

(d) Economic Commission for Europe, Energy Division: Working Party on Gas (Geneva, 20 January 1992). Presentation of a report by the Forum President on 1991 activities;

(e) Economic Commission for Europe, Energy Division: Working Party on Gas (25-27 January 1993). Presentation of a report by the Forum Managing Director on 1992 activities.